

REMARKS

Independent Claims 1, 8 and 17 have been amended. No new matter has been added. For example, independent Claims 1, 8 and 17 were amended to provide proper antecedent basis. Support of the amendments can be found in the original independent Claims 1, 8 and 17, in the summary of the invention on page 5 of the instant application, and at lines 18-21 on page 8 of the instant application. The summary of the invention states,

A rack equipment management information coordination and tracking system and method is disclosed. In one embodiment, a rack equipment management information coordination method is implemented. As part of the rack equipment management information coordination method a rack equipment management plan is formulated. Equipment description information detection is also automatically directed. Both the detected rack equipment description information and formulated rack equipment management plan are stored

Lines 15-23 on page 8 states,

The rack equipment management plan can include rack equipment management and usage policies (e.g., guidelines). The rack equipment management plan can establish associations between a rack equipment performance action and a particular trigger event. For example, the policy can indicate a particular performance level for a particular piece or type of rack equipment if a particular trigger event occurs. The performance levels can include power consumption and heat dissipation budget limitations.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-20

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 20030036983 by Hougen et al. (referred to hereinafter as "Hougen"). Applicants respectfully submit that embodiments of the present invention are neither taught nor suggested by Hougen.

Independent Claim 1 recites,

A rack equipment management information coordination method comprising:
formulating a rack equipment management plan, wherein said rack equipment management plan is a plan for managing rack equipment while said rack equipment is in operation;
automatically detecting rack equipment description information; and
storing said rack equipment description information and said rack equipment management plan.

Applicants respectfully submit that Hougen does not teach or suggest, among other things, “a rack equipment management plan, wherein said rack equipment management plan is a plan for managing rack equipment while said rack equipment is in operation,” as recited by Claim 1.

Applicants understand Hougan to teach a method of inventorying data for a facility for the purpose of displaying a layout of the facility. For example, in the first 3 sentences of paragraph 0003, Hougan states, “Industrial organizations are often faced with the need to relocate facilities or reconfigure existing facilities as a result of business expansion or relocation...” Hougan also states in the first two sentences of paragraph 0004 “Current inventory and configuration management methods are oriented toward a text only description...” In paragraph 0006 Hougan states,

In accordance with the present invention, a method for managing and the configuration of a facility layout utilizes text displayed on a computer monitor along with pictorial information in a web browser or over an intranet utilizing point and click inputs (emphasis added).

Hougan reiterates at lines 6-7 of paragraph 0037, “To manage the layout of the facility...” (emphasis added).

The Office Action asserts that Hougan teaches the embodiment recited by Claim 1 in paragraph 0043. However, Applicants understand paragraph 0043 to provide more information on how Hougan implements inventorying data for a facility for the purpose of displaying a layout of the facility. Therefore, Applicants do not understand paragraph 0043 of Hougan to teach or suggest, “a rack equipment management plan, wherein said rack equipment management plan is a plan for managing rack equipment while said rack equipment is in operation,” as recited by Claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, independent Claim 1 should be patentable. For similar reasons, independent Claims 8 and 17 should be patentable. Claims 2-7 depend on Claim 1. Claims 9-16 depend on Claim 8. Claims 18-20 depend on Claim 17. These dependent claims include all of the features of their respective independent claims. Therefore, these dependent claims should be patentable for at least the reasons that their respective independent claims should be patentable.

Serial No. 10/678,464
Examiner: Nguyen, Thuy-Vi Thi

- 8 -

Art Unit 4175
200208654-1

CONCLUSION

In light of the above listed amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested. Based on the arguments and amendments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-20 overcome the rejections of record. For reasons discussed herein, Applicants respectfully request that Claims 1-20 be considered by the Examiner. Therefore, allowance of Claims 1-20 is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have a question regarding the instant amendment and response, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 2/29/2008

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